MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) This is a ryots' road taken under Government maintenance, but its maintenance is entrusted to interested people. The road is reported to be fit for cart traffic during the dry weather.

(*b*) The Government note the information.

(2) An estimate will be called for.

Irrigational facilities to Punja Cultivators.

223. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): (1) Are the Government aware:

(*a*) of the difficulties experienced by the *punja* cultivators generally for want of proper drainage channels in vast *padams*; and

(*b*) that, during the months from Tulam to Makaram every year, a large number of criminal cases crop up among the ryots on account of disputes regarding the right of passage of water?

(2) Will they be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a special investigation officer to investigate and report on these numerous minor channels on the western portions of North and Central Travancore?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) and (*b*) The answers are in the negative.

(2) If specific instances are brought to notice, the Chief Engineer will be asked to investigate the matter.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): In regard to the answer to part (*b*), will the Government be pleased to call for a list of the cases that have cropped up in Tulam and Makaram?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Of which year, please?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Every year.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For how many years past?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Figures for the last three years will satisfy the Government of the difficulty that is experienced.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): This is a new question.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): It is not a new question. Question (*b*) refers to the number of cases that have cropped up.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not suggested that the statement of the number of cases should be called for.

If the member wants statistics of the number of cases, he might give notice of that question.

Motor accidents in 1102.

224. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to give statistics of motor accidents in 1102 in the State showing:

(*a*) the nature of the accidents;

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[Mr. C. P. Thomas.]

(*b*) the extent of injury to person and loss of life involved ;
(*c*) whether responsibility for the accidents has been fixed ; and
(*d*) the nature of the punishments awarded ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing :

(*a*) the number of cases charged by the Police under the Travancore Vehicles Regulation :
(*b*) the nature of the offences ;
(*c*) the number of persons convicted for each offence ; and
(*d*) the nature of punishment awarded for each offence ?

(3) Will the Government so modify the rules for their operation under the Travancore Vehicles Regulation as to concentrate attention not simply on over-loading and over-speeding but on ensuring the efficiency of the machine, the sobriety of the drivers, and their physical fitness for the work, when they are engaged in it, by not being overworked and deprived of necessary sleep ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (1) (*a*) There were 106 cases of motor accidents in 1102. It is not possible to give the nature of each of these accidents without going into great detail.

(*b*) 160 persons were injured and 7 killed.

(*c*) Yes, in 71 cases responsibility was fixed by the Police.

(*d*) 12 cases have ended in conviction, the punishment awarded being simple imprisonment with fine in one case and fine only in 11 cases.

(2) (*a*) 2,468.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement* containing the information is laid on the table.

(*d*) Offences under Motor Vehicles Regulation are punishable by fine only.

(3) So far as public passenger motor vehicles are concerned, no modification of the Travancore Motor Vehicles Rules, 1096, as revised to date, is necessary to secure the objects the member has in view. The attention of the Police is not concentrated "simply on over-loading and over-speeding." The Government are advised that a motor vehicle which is loaded beyond the carrying capacity guaranteed by the manufacturers and overdriven deteriorates very rapidly and becomes a source of danger through parts wearing out on account of the strain put upon them being greater than that for which they are intended.

The efficiency and more particularly the safety of the motor buses is secured by six-monthly examinations by engineers and by interim examinations by Magistrates and Police officers (*Vide* Nos. 1 and 4 of the "Conditions of continuance of service" contained in Form G, Hire Permit, under Motor Vehicles Rules). These rules are strictly enforced.

Under No. 8 of the above conditions only drivers holding certi.

**Vide* Appendix VI—page 987.

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ficates from the Commissioner of Police are permitted to drive motor buses and these certificates are granted only after enquiries have been made and applicants have been found to be sober, of good character and competent.

To prevent, as far as possible, drivers being over-worked to the point of danger, no motor bus is permitted to run more than 110 miles per day.

(ii) The supervision over privately owned motor vehicles and those, other than buses, licensed to be let for hire is not so strict. If the member suggests that the Motor Vehicles Rules should be amended so as to bring those vehicles under closer Police control, he is requested to communicate his suggestions to the Government or the Commissioner of Police.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Do the Government consider that out of 106 cases of motor accidents only in 71 cases alone, responsibility was fixed by the Police and is this a fair proportion?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): To which part is the member referring?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Part (1) (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*). 106 cases were reported of which in 71 cases the responsibility was fixed by the Police and of which 12 cases only were convicted. Do the Government consider that as a favourable proportion?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The other cases were treated as accidents.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Only 12 cases ended in conviction. Are the Government aware of the reason for such a small proportion of conviction? Is it on account of failure to produce proper evidence or the difficulty to produce proper evidence?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know that.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): With regard to part (2), may I know whether any driver was punished for insobriety?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): The answer says that before a certificate is given, enquiries have to be made and applicants have to be found to be sober and of good character. In cases where this character is not maintained by the drivers while they are on duty am I to understand that not a single punishment has been awarded for insobriety?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Insobriety is not an offence under the Regulation.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to amend the Regulation so that the drivers must be in sober temperament while on duty, and make it an offence under the Regulation when they are not so?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It will be considered.

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Appendix VI.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 224.**

Statement showing particulars of offences charged and convicted under the Motor Vehicles Regulation in 1102.

Serial No.	Nature of offences.	Cases charged by the Police under the Motor Vehicles Regulation.	Number convicted	Nature of punishment.
1	Failure to observe the provisions re lights, bells, horns, brakes, mirrors, speed indicators and other appliances (Rules 16, 17 and 18) ...	108	80	Fine.
2	Driving without licenses [Section 7, Regulation VI of 1094] ...	36	31	Do.
3	Overloading (No. 2 of "Conditions of Run" prescribed in 'G' Permit granted under Rule 31 of Motor Vehicles Rules of 1096) ...	888	620	Do.
4	Driving without badge (Rule 31 F of Motor Vehicles Rules of 1096) ...	150	109	Do.
5	Driving without competency certificate (No. 8 of "Conditions of continuance of service" of 'G' Permit) ...	444	316	Do.
6	Failure to adhere to prescribed times and routes (Rule 15) ...	289	150	Do.
7	Failure to obey directions of Police officers in charge of regulation of traffic (Rule 28) ...	97	64	Do.
8	Failure to observe rule of the road (Rule 27) ...	2	1	Do.
9	Driving beyond speed-limits (Section 12, Clauses 2 (g) and (h) of Regulation VI of 1094 and under Rules 14 and 26) ...	32	16	Do.
10	Failure to display distinguishing number correctly (Rule 11) ...	7	4	Do.
11	Failure to send six-monthly examination certificates (No. 1 of "Conditions of continuance of service", 'G' Permit) ...	160	71	Do.
12	Failure to renew hire permits (Rule 31) ...	162	38	Do.
13	Failure to notify accidents ...	6	6	Do.
14	Failure to report transfer of ownership and possession (Rule 6) ...	3	2	Do.
15	Failure to report change of address (Rule 7) ...	3	3	Do.
16	Failure to perform duties of conductor [Rule 31 (b)] ...	80	61	Do.
17	Obstruction and leaving vehicles unattended (Rule 25) ...	1	1	Do.
	Total ...	2,468	1,573	

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